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# Assembly California Legislature

**JOHN LAIRD**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY SEVENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
Chair, BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES

August 24, 2007

Dear Friend,

I have been contacted by many constituents who have expressed deep concern about the planned aerial spraying of a pheromone to disrupt Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) mating. Currently, spraying is scheduled to take place the evenings of September 5-7 on the Monterey Peninsula.

I want to assure you I am taking your concerns very seriously. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> I spoke to A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), and pressed the need for a thorough public process whereby people can be heard and get their questions answered. I've also spoken with Monterey Mayor Dela Salla regarding the situation.

In response to my and other elected officials' concerns, the CDFA has scheduled a public forum for Wednesday, August 29 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Convention Center, located at One Portola Plaza in downtown Monterey. Attached is Secretary Kawamura's response to the City of Monterey in this regard. In the letter, Secretary Kawamura commits to not proceeding with spraying until citizens are given an opportunity to discuss these issues.

Furthermore, at my request officials from the CDFA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be providing me with an in-person briefing within the next few days in Sacramento to provide a full overview of the LBAM situation and answer my questions.

The LBAM situation is both urgent and complicated, involving two issues of critical importance: public health and safety, and our local economy. For that reason, it is critical we have a comprehensive process that emphasizes sound science and community input.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



**JOHN LAIRD**, Assemblymember  
27<sup>th</sup> District

attachment